

become more widespread and hence further limit imports. Our companies might simply demand increased prices from other governments.

Thompson's recognition of reality was a relief for many people who have spent years battering the administration's stone wall on this issue. That wall has been damaged but not breached. Americans will need to press their elected representatives to devise, pass and ensure implementation of reasonable, responsible legislation.

The current situation, as Thompson recognized, is untenable. Some kind of reimportation will almost certainly become law. But, for the millions of Americans whom it could benefit, whether they realize any savings will be in the details.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO PROHIBIT THE OPERATION OF THE MEDICARE COMPARATIVE COST ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce a bill to prevent the District of Columbia from becoming a test case for the privatization of Medicare. A Medicare comparative cost demonstration project under part C of Title XVIII of the Social Security Act was a part of the new Medicare prescription drug law. My bill is one of several introduced by members of Congress designed to prevent the federal government from making a particular district one of the six testing grounds for the entire country.

The Medicare prescription drug legislation, signed into law on December 8, 2003, contained a little-noticed but crucial provision designed to lead to the privatization of Medicare. Section 214(a) of the Medicare bill established up to six "premium support" demonstration projects starting in 2010. These demonstration projects will provide health care vouchers for private insurance to eligible Medicare beneficiaries. As a result, Medicare will compete directly against private plans in offering services to older Americans.

I strongly oppose the voucher approach because seniors who choose to remain or must remain in the traditional fee-for-service plan will pay significantly higher premiums than they pay now. The private plans will be able to cherry pick the healthiest and youngest seniors to enroll in their plans while turning away older, sicker people. Traditional Medicare, therefore, will have very high costs and premiums because it will not be able to spread the burden over the larger and most diverse pool of seniors. This "competition" proposal is stacked to portray Medicare as inefficient and expensive in order to give the program's critics the manufactured evidence to get the privatization result they want from a premium pool of cherry picked seniors.

The Medicare law did not specify where the demonstration projects will take place, but said they will be in 6 metropolitan statistical areas to be determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services. This experiment is the result of a compromise that was necessary to keep the privatized vouchers from going na-

tionwide immediately. The determination to privatize Medicare and Social Security remains a goal of the Republican Congress and of President Bush, however. Like others who have filed similar bills, my bill says count the District of Columbia out.

DIANNE DUNKELMAN HONORED BY THE GREATER CINCINNATI REGION OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR COMMUNITY AND JUSTICE AT ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY AWARDS DINNER

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dianne Dunkelman, an accomplished and dedicated community volunteer, who will be honored for her distinguished service to our community at the Greater Cincinnati Region of the National Conference for Community and Justice's (NCCJ) 60th Anniversary Awards Dinner on May 27, 2004.

Dianne's extraordinary volunteer service for women's health, the arts, and social services has been recognized throughout the nation. She founded Speaking of Women's Health in 1995 as a way to raise funds for public television. Through her leadership as CEO, she inspired the expansion of Speaking of Women's Health to a national foundation with more than 40 events nationwide, two national minority health initiatives: Universal Sisters for African American women and Hablando de la salud de la mujer for Latino women, a national in-store health initiative at Wal-Mart stores, and a weekly television program on the Lifetime network, Lifetime's Speaking of Women's Health.

Dianne is a leading advocate of helping women understand and recognize their health care options, and she recruited celebrities such as Florence Henderson, Mary Wilson and Valerie Simpson to help spread the message to other women.

She has already received numerous awards, including the Athena Award from the Columbia University Partnership for Women's Health; 2003 Distinguished Women's Award from Northwood University; Cincinnati Enquirer's Woman of the Year Award; YWCA's Career Women of Achievement Award; and the Charles Vaughan Award for her work with Cincinnati's PBS affiliate WCET Channel 48.

All of us in Greater Cincinnati thank Dianne for her service to our community and congratulate her on receiving this prestigious honor.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF 2004 LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER MICHAEL JAMES HOROSKO, OF CONCORD, MI

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record

of excellence he has compiled in academics, leadership, and community service, that I salute Michael James Horosko, winner of the 2004 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is given to young adults who have demonstrated their true commitment to playing an important role in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Michael is being honored for demonstrating the same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Michael is an exceptional student at Concord High School. Aside from his perfect 4.0 grade point average, Michael possesses an outstanding record of achievement in high school. He has played football for four years and was named academic all-state. Notable among his many activities is his participation in Quiz Bowl, National Honor Society, and S.A.D.D. Michael is also Vice President of his graduating class.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to join his many admirers in extending our highest praise and congratulations to Michael James Horosko for his selection as winner of the 2004 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor not only recognizes his efforts, but represents a testament to the parents, teachers, and other individuals whose personal interest, strong support, and active participation contributed to his success. To this remarkable young man, we extend our most heartfelt good wishes for all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MS. BRITTANY POTTS OF PORTAGE, MICHIGAN

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Brittany Potts of Portage, Michigan, who won the 2004 National VFW Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest. This great educational achievement also serves as a wonderful patriotic statement of Brittany's dedication and responsibility to our country. I am very proud to honor Brittany and her commitment to our nation's future.

Each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary conduct a Voice of Democracy audio/essay competition designed to give high school students the opportunity to voice their opinion on their responsibility to our country. Brittany, a sophomore at Portage Central High School, was one of 59 students, out of more than 80,000 participants, who received a national scholarship.

Brittany's insightful response of her commitment to the betterment of our great country serves as a reminder to all, of the immense power and responsibility we all have. I look forward to hearing of the great many achievements that Brittany has before her. It pleases me to honor the magnificent dedication of Brittany and to submit her script into the RECORD.